

## Trial suggested for Shevardnadze

BONN (AP) — One of the Soviet Union's hardline parliamentarians said in an interview Monday that former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze should face a criminal probe. In an interview with the *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, Colonel Viktor Alksnis was quoted as saying there must be a "parliamentary investigation with criminal consequences" against Shevardnadze. Alksnis, in the newspaper interview published Monday, said Shevardnadze had negotiated too quickly for the withdrawal of hundreds of thousands of Soviet troops from the former East Germany. He also criticised Shevardnadze's negotiations on the dismantling of conventional weapons in Europe, calling the move a serious mistake. Alksnis also reportedly said that the current situation in the Soviet Union posed a greater danger to the West than in the time "under Stalin in the 40s and '50s" because the country's domestic situation was unpredictable. Shevardnadze, one of Moscow's leading reformers, abruptly resigned Thursday, telling the Soviet parliament that his country was on the brink of dictatorship and laying blame on the country's hardline conservatives.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## Merry Christmas

The Jordan Times will not be published on Wednesday, Dec. 26, due to the Christmas holiday on Dec. 25. The next issue of the paper will appear on Thursday, Dec. 27. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very Merry Christmas



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## Falange party official shot dead

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen burst into the house of a Lebanese Christian party official and shot him dead and seriously wounded his pregnant wife, security sources said Monday. The killers, using guns fitted with silencers, pumped seven bullets into Falange Party official Elie Daou. He died instantly in Sunday night's raid on his home in the Beirut suburb of Kfardebian. His wife survived the shooting but was in serious condition in hospital. Troops rounded up people near the scene for questioning. Another party official, Sami Abu Jawdeh, was shot dead last Tuesday by gunmen who stormed his jewellery shop in east Beirut.

## Libya ready for weapons inspection if Israel is

WASHINGTON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Monday he would welcome outside inspection of his weapons plants if Israel and other Middle East states followed suit. "We have been the first who asked for this, even before the emergence of the crisis" caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he said in a satellite interview broadcast on U.S. television. But Qadhafi said he saw no prospect of such a regional disarmament pact because of what he said would be Israel's refusal to take part. "They reject the destruction of such weapons and they are determined on using them," he said, referring to chemical and nuclear weapons. "Of course, if all states are subjected to inspection, Libya would be among such states to be inspected," Qadhafi said.

## Yemeni envoy flies to Moscow

SANA (R) — Yemen sent a top envoy to the Soviet Union Monday in search of a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. The Yemeni news agency SABA said Chief-of-Staff Brigadier Abdullah Hussein Al Busheiri was carrying a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. "The letter deals with the role that could be played by the Soviet Union as a strategic ally of the Arab Nation in... finding a peaceful settlement based on dialogue and excluding the military option," it said.

## Chevenement says Saudi row over

PARIS (R) — French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, visiting Saudi Arabia, said Monday he considered a controversy with local authorities over the cancellation of Christmas rock concert for French troops was now over. "I have had a frank but friendly discussion with Prince Khaled Ben Sultan (a royal family member and Saudi army chief) and believe we should now drop the matter and not uselessly dramatise it," Chevenement told French television from Saudi Arabia. Chevenement added: "We try to take into account the customs and values of Saudi society and it would have been preferable if the Saudis had taken into account our customs at Christmas time and our public opinion." French radio said Saudis had banned the concert because they would have been contrary to local tradition and offended national sensitivities.

## Envoy urges Soviet Jews to go to Israel

BERLIN (R) — Israel's ambassador to Bonn urged Soviet Jewish migrants Monday to seek refuge first in the Jewish state, instead of Germany. Ambassador Benjamin Navon said in an interview with the Berlin daily *Neue Zeit* Israel was troubled that Soviet Jews fleeing anti-Semitism and dismal living conditions were streaming to newly-united Germany. "This migration brings us certain difficulties. They want to come to Germany as refugees. But this is contrary to the Zionist position that since the state of Israel has existed, there can be no more Jewish refugees in the world," he said.

## Tel Aviv will be hit first, Iraq warns

### King Fahd, allies ready to go to war

Combined agency dispatches

In Doha, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said Monday that his kingdom and five Gulf allies were ready to go to war with Iraq if it failed to quit Kuwait.

"Brothers, we took a decision to return Kuwait, peacefully if peace were possible, but by war when only war is best," he told his five allies at summit talks in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The king, whose country is host to the great majority of the U.S.-led multinational forces ranged against Iraq, drew a grim picture, saying the horizon was dark.

"We are able to take the decision on confrontation, as we are also able to take the decision of peace," he said in a speech to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which is holding its first summit since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The interview is scheduled to be broadcast Wednesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir replied that Iraq would be "harmed in a most serious way" if it attacks Israel.

Israeli government spokesman Yossi Olmert, interviewed on an NBC television programme Monday, said, "We would like to make it very clear to (Iraq) that Israel is not Kuwait and... we would know how to defend ourselves and our reaction would be most effective and painful."

The statement was issued as the leaders of the richest Arab states met to discuss pooling funds to acquire sophisticated weapons from East and West to arm a unified defence force for

the Gulf region.

Officials said Fahd and his five GCC partners also talked about establishing a joint military industry and studied a \$15-billion assistance programme for Arab countries hurt by the Gulf crisis.

Iraq has meanwhile recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Western Europe for urgent consultation on the Gulf crisis, officials said Monday.

One of the diplomats said 10 ambassadors have been conferring with Foreign Minister Tareq Azziz and other senior officials.

The diplomat said the objective of their talks was to examine how to improve Iraq's relations with foreign countries which have been severely damaged by its invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq's envoy to the U.N., Abdul Amir Al Anbari, said in Amman before returning to Baghdad that his government was using the holiday season to discuss the crisis in detail.

"I believe the government thought it was time to make some consultation as well as to bring our ambassadors up to date," he said in Amman before returning to Baghdad.

"The reason is simply to discuss in further detail the Gulf crisis and prospects of a peaceful settlement in the crisis."

(Continued on page 5)

## Badran pursues cabinet negotiations after reaching accord with Brotherhood

By Ghadeer Taher

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After finalising details with the Muslim Brotherhood over its participation in a new government, Prime Minister Mudar Badran is now negotiating with other blocs in the Lower House of Parliament, informed sources said Monday.

At the same time, said an official source, the premier "does not feel pressed at this point in time into rushing to form a new government."

"There are other priorities in terms of national security and other issues against the backdrop of the situation in the Gulf, and the prime minister feels that a few days of delay in announcing a new government will not do any harm," the official told the Jordan Times. He cautioned that it is near impossible to pinpoint a date for the reshuffle since the situation is "changing constantly."

A Muslim Brotherhood deputy said that details for the

Brotherhood's inclusion in the cabinet "have been finalised" with the premier. "It was agreed with the prime minister that he would choose five nominees from a list of nine candidates already submitted by the Brotherhood."

The list includes, according to the deputy who preferred anonymity, four Brotherhood deputies — Hamzeh Mansour, Yousef Al Athem, Abdullah Akyeh and Majed Khalilah — and five from outside parliament — Adnan Al Jajouli, Mohammed Awaadah, Fahmi Al Malkawi, Ibrahim Zeid Al Kelani and Fayed Al Rabeeb.

No details of portfolios sought or promised were available.

The Brotherhood's agreement with the premier was reached after the virtual break-up of a parliamentary block which grouped the 22 Brotherhood deputies with eight independent Islamists and six pan-Arab nationalists.

House Speaker Abdul Laif Arabyat, a prominent member of the Brotherhood, said he was not privy to the "details of the negotiations" but confirmed that the group had approved "certain names."

Arabyat, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, also affirmed that the approval of the names came in line with a "unified strategy and position" adopted by the Brotherhood.

Arabyat would not confirm that there was a split in the Brotherhood, other sources said there had been dissent among the ranks of Brotherhood deputies against joining Badran's government.

Four members of the group, in defiance of the leadership's decision to join, tried to pass a motion in the coalition against participation. The coalition broke up after a decision could not be reached over the issue, thus paving the way for Badran to initiate negotiations with smaller groups that a 36-member group in the 80-member assembly.

According to other parliamentary sources the expected government reshuffle will tentatively affect 10 portfolios. The Muslim Brotherhood is expected to get five portfolios, independent Islamists two posts, and one portfolio each for pan-Arab Nationalists, Democratic and Liberal blocs in Parliament.

## Israel seen moving towards separating Gaza economy

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Moshe Arens Monday named a committee to study possible economic development in the occupied Gaza Strip. The move was seen as a first step towards separating Gaza's economy from that of Israel.

Any encouragement of development in the occupied territories would be a reversal of Israel's policy of keeping Gaza and the West Bank dependent on Israeli goods and employing Palestinians as cheap labour in Israel.

A defence ministry statement announced appointment of the committee, which will be headed by prominent economist Ezra Sadan. The statement said the team also will investigate the relationship between the economies of Gaza and Israel.

According to the Israeli daily Haaretz, a ministerial committee headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir recently gave the Israeli military government in the occupied territories "a green light to push for establishment of an independent economic infrastructure in the territories."

## French support crucial for Benjedid's efforts

By Lamine K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As Algerian President Chadli Benjedid is pursuing his mission for peace in the Gulf, officials and analysts say that the success of his mission largely depends on French support for an initiative involving a compromise solution for the almost five-month-old Gulf crisis.

Such an initiative, according to officials, will be based on a combination of Arab ideas for compromise and a French proposal launched last September for convening an international peace conference to address all the conflicts in the Middle East.

Well-informed Arab officials say that the basis for a compromise sought by Algeria involves a parallel process of negotiations to end the Gulf crisis on the one hand and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the other.

His Majesty King Hussein has called for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East along with the beginning of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

But Jordanian and Arab officials insist that Algerian efforts will be insufficient to pull a peace process off the ground without active French support and participation.

They say that a joint Arab-European effort is not necessarily aimed at countering the hardline American approach but rather at exploring a middle ground to pave the way for a U.S.-Iraqi dialogue.

The two parties who have strait-jacketed themselves are Iraq and the U.S., said the Arab official. Consequently, a third party, most probably Algeria with European backing, could find a way to be in the position of the two sides, he said.

Irqi anticipation that Paris will play a pivotal role in pressing for a compromise solution and for settlement of all conflicts in the region had

prompted Baghdad to release all French nationals long before it allowed all foreign nationals to be held as deterrent against attack.

France, however, did not rise to the occasion. According to a senior Arab diplomat, Baghdad was warned by its friends in the Arab World against expecting a major French step in return for the release of all French nationals.

Iraq was also told, they said, that Paris would move if there was a practical Iraqi step indicating its readiness to relinquish Kuwait.

Some Arab officials who were in touch with Baghdad and Paris maintain that Iraq has missed "a real chance for a breakthrough that would have brought about a compromise and the sought-for linkage."

Other officials and analysts

(Continued on page 5)

## Israeli troops outnumber pilgrims in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (Agencies) — The main colours of Christmas eve in Bethlehem this year were purple, red, black and green — the hues of the berets of hundreds of soldiers dispatched to provide security in the holy town.

Only a few dozen tourists were seen as the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel-Sabah, came to Bethlehem at midday Monday to open the Christmas season in the Holy Land.

A light breeze fell as a procession of priests led Sabah through Manger Square and into the Church of the Nativity, built over the grotto where tradition holds the Christ child was born.

A strike, called by the underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, closed all shops and restaurants in Bethlehem.

And there were no decorations, as officials of this town of 10,000 decided to cancel most celebrations in solidarity with the three-year Palestinian revolt.

The town's mayor, Elias Freij, issued a statement praying for "peace on earth and goodwill towards all people and peace in the holy land between Israelis and Palestinians, and peace amongst all the Arabs."

Freij said the lack of tourists was not due to the Gulf crisis or the uprising. He blamed it instead on a U.S. State Department warning for Americans not to travel to the Middle East.

"It is the fault of the Americans," he said, to fight for the oil in Kuwait and to disregard the human rights of all people here," he said.

Israeli officials were predicting that fewer than 7,000 people would visit Bethlehem this year, down from a sparse 10,000 last year.

Before the uprising began in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, thousands of pilgrims would gather for holiday festivities here.

Gaetrie Beitz, a tourist from Heidelberg, Germany, was visiting with her husband and 11-year-old daughter, and said she was frightened at "finding the streets so empty, it is a very very fearful situation."

"We are very depressed about the place and about the whole political situation here," she said. "For us, Christmas is an event of peace, and here you cannot feel peace."

In Manger Square, Sabah was greeted by the Israeli military governor of Bethlehem, Dudu Mufaz. The greeting is a tradition that stretches back to the times when the Turks and then the British ruled Palestine.

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According to other parliamentary sources the expected government reshuffle will tentatively affect 10 portfolios. The Muslim Brotherhood is expected to get five portfolios, independent Islamists two posts, and one portfolio each for pan-Arab Nationalists, Democratic and Liberal blocs in Parliament.

As a Christmas gesture, the military announced it was releasing 217 Palestinian prisoners arrested during the uprising.

All those released were from occupied Gaza Strip.

Virtually all Palestinians in the

## Rushdie embraces Islam, disavows writings

LONDON (R) — British author Salman Rushdie embraced the Muslim faith Monday and disavowed parts of his book "The Satanic Verses" for which Iran ordered his death.

The statement was released by the moderate Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance in the United Kingdom.

Indian-born Rushdie, 43, has been in hiding for nearly two years since Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered his death for blasphemy.

A spokeswoman said the author hoped the death order might now lapse. But reaction from Iran, which earlier this month upheld Khomeini's death order, was awaited and some British Muslims said Rushdie's action Monday was not enough.

Moderate Muslim leaders and Rushdie's spokeswoman said he had signed a statement in the presence of Islamic scholars led by Egyptian Secretary of State for Religious Endowments Mohammad Ali Mahjoub.

It said: "I do not agree with any statement in my novel" the "Satanic Verses," uttered by any of the characters who insult the Prophet Mohammad or who cast aspersions upon Islam or upon the authenticity of the Holy Koran or who reject the divinity of Allah."

Rushdie, who has earlier been quoted as calling himself a lapsing Muslim, pledged "to witness that there is no God but Allah and that Mohammad is His last Prophet."

He also undertook not to publish

his paperback edition of his book or permit further translations "while any risk of further offence exists."

The statement was released by the moderate Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance in the United Kingdom.

But a spokeswoman for Radical Muslims in Britain, Kalim Siddiqui, said the death order against Rushdie would remain until "The Satanic Verses" was withdrawn.

Frances D'Souza, who heads the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie, confirmed the authenticity of Monday's statement.

She said Rushdie was not disavowing the entire contents of the book but was saying that "he does not agree with the bits of dialogue which could be perceived as an insult to Islam."

In February 1989 Khomeini declared Rushdie's book a heresy and ordered Muslims around the world to kill the author.

Monday's signing was preceded by several contacts between Rushdie and Hesham Al Essaway, a Muslim moderate who is chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance.

Essaway was present at the secret signing, as was an Egyptian diplomat representing Egypt's ambassador to Britain.

# Middle East News

## U.S. Congress would deny Bush blank cheque in Gulf

*Soviet conservatives demand daily review of Kremlin policy in Gulf*

WASHINGTON (R) — The powerful U.S. Senate Democratic leader predicted Sunday that Congress would deny President George Bush "blank-cheque authorization" to attack Iraq if it remains in Kuwait after the U.N.-imposed Jan. 15 deadline.

"I don't think such a resolution would pass. I surely would not vote for it," Senator George Mitchell said in an interview on U.S. television.

"That would be a negation of the role of Congress in our system of government," the Maine Democrat said.

He described what the Bush administration wanted as "a U.N.-type resolution — a blank-cheque authorization to say the president at some indefinite future time under unspecified circumstances, can make war."

The U.S. constitution gives the Congress the power to declare war, but it also makes the president commander-in-chief and gives him broad authority as the nation's chief executive.

Mitchell said the Congress, which is dominated by Democrats, will "debate, discuss and vote" on use of the U.S. force in the Gulf, but he did not specify whether this would occur before or after the Jan. 15 deadline.

More than 400,000 U.S. military personnel are due to be in the Gulf by the middle of next month, the bulk of the multinational force opposing Iraq.

Democratic leaders have made plans for the new Congress that reconvenes on Jan. 3 to remain on call for a Gulf debate instead of recessing until Jan. 23 as originally planned.

Mitchell, who just returned from a visit to the Gulf, said the United States should regard the possible use of force as a last resort — only if United Nations-imposed sanctions failed to force Iraq from Kuwait.

The administration has repeatedly voiced its contention that Bush does not need any further authorisation from Congress before ordering any offensive military action in the Gulf.

Mitchell said the likelihood of war would grow if Secretary of State James Baker failed to meet Iraq's Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz because of the current

stalemate over the scheduling of follow-up talks in Baghdad on a mutually acceptable date.

"But I don't think (war is) inevitable, and I surely don't think it's necessary at this time," Mitchell said.

"I think the best resolution is to stay with the course with current economic sanctions which are having a real effect in Iraq, and try to bring about the withdrawal that way," he added. "If we must use force ultimately, I will favour that. I don't think Jan. 15 is the time for that."

### Pressure on Moscow

On the other end of the East-West spectrum, a powerful bloc of conservatives is demanding the Soviet parliament to assume daily oversight powers over Kremlin policy in the Gulf crisis.

A resolution proposed by the right-wing Soyuz faction in parliament Monday would require the foreign ministry to give daily reports on the crisis from Jan. 5 to 13.

The parliament would then meet in special sitting on Jan. 14 — one day before the expiration of the United Nations' deadline for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

A second provision reserved final say over the introduction of Soviet military forces for the month, the bulk of the multinational force opposing Iraq.

Foreign Minister Eduard She-

### Gadhafi said to pledge help for Belgians

BRUSSELS (R) — Libyan leader colonel Muammar Qadhafi has pledged to do all he can to win the release of four Belgian hostages held for three years by a Tripoli-backed Palestinian group, Belgian media reported Monday.

Newspapers and state-owned radio said Qadhafi gave the undertaking during a meeting in Tripoli Sunday with Jaak Gabriels, president of the Flemish regional party Volksunie, the smallest party in Belgium's five-party coalition government, and Volksunie Senator Hans de Belder. The Libyan leader also asked Belgium to back his call for a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council, enlarged to include Arab countries, to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Belgium becomes a member of the Security Council in January. A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to comment on Qadhafi's reported promise, but confirmed the Belgian diplomat in charge of the Houwink case, Jan Hollants van Looche, was in the Libyan capital Sunday for talks.

The Belga news agency said Qadhafi told Belgian journalists accompanying the Volksunie delegation his pledge amounted to an "appeal to persons unknown," since the identity of the kidnappers of Emmanuel and Godeve Houtekins and their two children had not been revealed.

vardadze cited conservative opposition to his Gulf policy in his resignation speech last Thursday.

Shvartvadze had been bound by conservative critics, who charged he was preparing the use of Soviet forces to back up Western demands for an Iraqi withdrawal.

It was not immediately clear when the full parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, could vote on the draft resolution.

"The congress on the whole supports the policy which is being carried out by the Soviet president in relation to the aggression of Iraq against Kuwait."

"At the same time, it believes inadmissible any participation of the Soviet Union in the military actions against Iraq which contradicts the state interests of the Soviet Union," the proposed resolution said.

"The application of military force abroad can be taken by the USSR president only with the permission of the supreme Soviet (the standing parliament)," the resolution added.

Soviet hardliners, alarmed by what they see as the Kremlin's shift towards the West, have dug in their heels over possible military involvement against Iraq, a long-time military and political ally.

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## Big business for airlines, removal companies as Jan. 15 looms

By Martin Marris  
The Associated Press

BAHRAYN — Airplane tickets are selling out and removal companies are shipping many expatriate families' belongings home as the United Nations' Jan. 15 deadline allowing force against Iraq approaches.

Britain, Ireland, Sweden and New Zealand are among countries that have recently advised dependents of nationals working in Bahrain, neighbouring Qatar and parts of Saudi Arabia to leave the region before the deadline expires.

Travel agencies are flooded with calls as thousands try to purchase air tickets, either because they're leaving soon or as a precaution in case they have to evacuate later.

"The phones are ringing all the time," said Bill Horsley, sales manager at Bahrain's Kanoo Travel Agency, one of the largest in the region.

Horsley said companies were

block-hocking as many as 10-20 seats on some flights to Europe and other points to "make sure that their people are protected."

Airlines and travel agents surveyed in Bahrain said flights to Britain, the Philippines, India and Egypt were fully booked from about Jan. 1 through Jan. 15, with long waiting lists. In some cases the lists are so long they've been closed.

"I wouldn't say there's panic, but concern is spreading," Horsley said.

He added that many of those who have reserved seats may not use them after all, citing the period immediately following the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, when about half the passengers who bought tickets out of the region later sent them back for refunds.

The British community in Bahrain is down from around 9,000 before the invasion to 1,500, and numbers are still falling, following London's advice that all dependents should leave

by Jan. 15.

The United States has about 750 nationals in Bahrain. The U.S. government has not advised citizens to leave, and embassy officials say there is no immediate sign of an American exodus.

The officials have assured Americans that they will be protected in case of war and evacuated if necessary.

About half of this island nation's 500,000 inhabitants are expatriates.

So far, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and other Third World nations that provide the bulk of the expatriate workforce in Bahrain have not advised their citizens to leave.

Filipinos who called their embassy said they were told in the event of war affecting Bahrain, they should rush to the main port, Mina Salman, for possible evacuation.

Remittances from Gulf countries are a major source of foreign exchange for these nations,

as well as a key source of income for thousands of families.

"I think even the poor Indians who need the jobs badly will sacrifice and go back," said one Indian, Abdennilah Mammi, whose family already has returned to Kerala in India.

"Actually, we're in a shaky mood, thinking a lot about whether we'll have war or we won't."

The foreign exodus from Bahrain does not appear to be as pronounced as in eastern Saudi Arabia. There, the great majority of Westerners are reported to be leaving, except for those in essential jobs.

The U.S. community, mainly oil workers and their families, has shrunk from 12,000 people to 8,000 in recent weeks and the exodus is expected to accelerate before Jan. 15.

Among those Britons planning to stay in Bahrain with his family is Richard Warnes, a senior engineer at the state-run electricity company who has

been in the country for 12 years.

"When the shooting starts the first thing that will happen is Bahrain airport will be closed and we'll be stuck here," said Warnes, 43, of Nidderdale, Yorkshire.

"We've decided we'll stay here and sit it out. We're expecting a shooting war. It's going to be pretty nasty, a lot of troops are going to suffer."

But Warnes expressed confidence in the defensive shield thrown around Bahrain by the U.S.-led multinational force, including anti-missile and anti-aircraft defences.

He acknowledged there is a risk Iraqi missiles with chemical warheads might get through and hit Bahrain. But he was confident that 99 per cent would miss their targets or be shot down.

"Our main worry is what will happen with the schools," said Warnes.

As civilians leave the island,

schools lose teachers and some are shutting down.

Removal companies report a heavy workload as expatriate families ship their household belongings out of the region.

"We're seeing more people moving for good, rather than just sending some of their stuff away," said Louise Foster of Scorpat International removals.

Foster said the company was shipping out dozens of households a week — and only two households have been shipped into Bahrain through her company so far this month.

A civil defence expert at the British Home Office, Roger Chick, recently told Bahrain's Akbar Al Khalieq newspaper that Bahrain was well equipped to look after its population should war break out.

He said 15,000 Bahrain government employees have been trained to cope with possible chemical or biological attack.

## Suez chief confirms security tightened

CAIRO (AP) — Security in the Suez Canal is being stepped up as potential threats to navigation increase with the growing possibility of war in the Gulf, the canal's top official said.

Mohammad Ezzat Adel, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, said foreign security services are cooperating in the special measures.

Adel's remarks, published Monday in Al Ahram, Al Akbar and Al Gomhouria, Cairo's main newspapers, were the first official admission of reinforced security in the vital waterway linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean.

Canal sources disclosed the tightening to the Associated Press last Friday. They said the aim was to prevent a possible Iraqi attempt to scuttle a vessel in the waterway to block it. They also said the precautions focused on cement-carrying ships because of the hazards to traffic of wet cement.

Scaling the 162-kilometre canal would slow down greatly the flow of troops and arms from Atlantic and Mediterranean points to the U.S.-led multinational force assembled in the Gulf region. Without the canal shortcut, ships would have to take the much longer and more expensive route from Europe to the U.S. east coast around southern Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

Blockage also would disrupt Gulf oil supplies to Western Europe and hurt Egypt financially. The canal, a major hard-currency earner, pumped more than \$1.5 billion into the treasury this year.

"A plan to ensure the safety of all ships transiting the canal is being implemented in cooperation with security authorities in Egypt and abroad," Adel said without identifying the foreign agencies.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Anglican bishop going to Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — The anglican bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf has been given a visa by Baghdad to make a "non-political" pastoral visit to church members in Iraq, church sources said. Bishop John Brown told fellow clergymen he planned to visit Iraq from Dec. 28 through Jan. 3 after getting approval from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, and the British Foreign Office. "This ... is strictly a pastoral visit by the bishop to part of his diocese, with no political overtones," the British-born prelate told clergy in a letter obtained by Reuters. An estimated 30,000 of the world's 70 million Anglicans live in the church's Middle East province, which includes Brown's sprawling diocese, the sources said.

#### Iran: 18,000 drug smugglers, addicts held

NICOSIA (AP) — More than 1,900 alleged drug traffickers and over 16,000 addicts were arrested in Iran in a five-week nation-wide sweep, Tehran Radio reporter. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Komiteh, the organisation responsible for internal security, as saying that more than 750 kilogrammes of various drugs were confiscated in the crackdown. The radio said 57 guns and 90 vehicles were confiscated in the raids. Iran's draconian laws call for a mandatory death sentence for possession of even small quantities of drugs. The Iranians have recently stepped up an anti-narcotics campaign launched two years ago. More than 1,500 alleged drug traffickers have been hanged since then, and over 100,000 so-called addicts have been thrown into hard labour camps. Iranian opposition groups, and independent human rights organisations, maintain the drug-related hangings cover execution of political opponents.

#### France denies U.S. envoy met Aoun

FRANCE (R) — France denied Monday that U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Rayan Crocker met ousted Lebanese rebel General Michel Aoun at the French embassy in Beirut last week. "This report is without any foundation," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The spokesman was commenting on a Dec. 22 Reuter report from Beirut quoting Lebanese government sources who said the meeting was apparently the first between Aoun and a foreign diplomat since his oust by Syrian troops on Oct. 13. Since then, Aoun has lived in the French embassy as a refugee. Lebanon's new government has asked Paris to hand over Aoun to be tried as a war criminal but France insists on granting him asylum.

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
14:00 Cairo (RJ)  
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)  
19:20 Brussels (RJ)  
20:00 Topoli (RJ)  
21:35 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)  
21:45 Rome (RJ)  
22:00 Rome (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:28 Beirut (ME)  
13:28 Moscow (SU)  
13:28 Riyadh (SV)  
13:45 Cairo (ME)

### MARKET PRICES

#### Up/over price in \$/s per kg

Apple ..... 650/500  
Banana ..... 500/450  
Banana (Mukhamar) ..... 450/400  
Beet ..... 400/350  
Carrot ..... 90/80  
Cabbage ..... 40/35  
Carrot ..... 180/160  
Cauliflower ..... 130/110  
Cucumber ..... 150/130  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 500/450  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 500/450  
Dates ..... 50/40  
Eggs ..... 180/160  
Garden ..... 1400/1000  
Grapes ..... 500/450  
Lemon ..... 200/180  
Mallow ..... 180/120  
Marrow (large) ..... 100/90  
Marrow (small) ..... 220/180  
Onion (dry) ..... 220/200  
Onion (green) ..... 180/160  
Orange ..... 600/500  
Paris (RJ) ..... 180/160  
Bahrain, Doha (RJ) ..... 180/160  
Dhahran (RJ) ..... 180/160  
Al-Batin, Al-Waha (RJ) ..... 180/160  
Al-Batin, J. Al-Sarrafah ..... 180/160  
Army, Marks ..... 80/160/150  
Al-Batin, Doha (RJ) ..... 80/160/150  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60/220/200  
Amal Hospital ..... 67/155

### HOSPITALS

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel: (06) 52200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### AERIALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
09:45 Moscow (RJ)  
10:25 Cairo (RJ)  
11:15 Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45 Dhahran (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES</

## Tunisia to train Jordanian instructors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tunisia is to help train Jordanian personnel for periods ranging between three to six months before they can take up posts as instructors at Ministry of Education's vocational training centres in the Kingdom, according to an agreement signed here Monday.

The training programme will be financed through a technical assistance agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Education.

The agreement is for training 49 men and women teachers in a month's time from now and in two stages. First a group of 25 and then 24 will be trained in Tunisia, with the whole programme ending by the second half of 1991.

The total cost of training the instructors will come up to JD 152,000, according to the agreement which was signed by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan and Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Minjhi.

The agreement with Tunisia came soon after talks between the Ministry of Education and a delegation representing the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in Yemen.

Dr. Ahmad Qadi, Yemeni Minister of Education who led his country's delegation to Jordan, wound up the visit and left for home.

Dr. Hamdan was among the senior Jordanian officials who discussed with Qadi exchanges of educational expertise and cooperation in scientific research programmes.

The Yemeni delegation voiced willingness to benefit from the Jordanian education experiments, and also in higher education.

Qadi was also received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and he toured several educational institutions in Jordan.

## Message of peace on Christmas eve

*Following is a message of peace issued by Monsignor Raouf Najjar from the Roman Catholic Church in Amman on Christmas eve:*

AMMAN (J.T.) — As the pendulum of time moves closer to the climax of the Gulf crisis, Christmas eve is a beautiful opportunity to invite the humanity especially leaders of the world to meditate about ways and means to give peace to the whole world, especially to our Middle East.

It was at Bethlehem in a stable that Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus, the saviour of the world; then a multitude of angles hovered over the stable, and their singing filled the air with heavenly music: "Glory to God in high heaven. Peace on earth to those on whom his favour rests." The angels brought the good news of our Saviour's birth to the whole world.

The birth of Christ was an event that had a special meaning for us, human beings: it will prompt us to show love to our fellow men.

The war is threatening our soil. Foreign forces and Arab forces are approaching each other; anger and bitterness are in the hearts; then it is time to ask those two forces to raise white flags of peace because Christians should bring peace to the whole world.

Christ who comes today will bring us peace, but the humanity must first prepare their hearts to receive Him. They must rid their hearts of hatred and greed, and happiness will come to the world.

A modern war in the area, to a modern war in the Gulf could be catastrophic, especially to the human race. This is why we are peacemakers and should promote peace, because we want peace for tomorrow, for our future, all over the world. We should hereby dedicate ourselves, our hearts and minds to world peace as our beloved leader King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan are doing as well as our spiritual leaders.

We believe that all mankind deserves a future free of the threat of nuclear war or any kind of war. We encourage peace between individuals and nations and clasp hands with people of the whole world in a global context, following the teachings of Christ and the Gospel, we will bring our contribution of truth and charity to the



Raouf Najjar

social life of our country.

Now we stand on the threshold of a new world order. There are present in this moment seeds of a new era of international cooperation under the rule of international law based upon superior power.

On this Christmas eve, we would invoke the power of Jesus, symbol for us of love and hope. We must witness against weak resignation to the illogical pursuit of militarism and war.

We must witness to our belief in the capacity of human beings and human societies to seek and achieve reconciliation.

We command this message to all persons of goodwill, inviting them to join us in continuing prayer and urgent action to avert war in the Middle East and to join in the quest for a just and durable peace in the Middle East and say with the angles: "Glory to God the Highest and Peace on earth to those of good will."

## Chamber of Industry to create

### King Hussein Award

By Ziyad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry is creating a King Hussein award for distinguished industrialists in recognition of their contributions to the Jordanian economy.

This was announced by Khalid Abu Hassan, the chamber's president, who said that the award would be presented annually at a special ceremony where several smaller awards will be also presented to the industrialists.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has accepted to be honorary chairman of a committee organising and presenting the awards, Abu Hassan said.

He said that the committee would present the award to the industrialists and businessmen who excelled in their endeavours to market Jordan's national products abroad, especially those finding new and non-traditional markets abroad to earn the nation badly needed foreign currency for financing national projects.

According to Abu Hassan, the committee comprises the minister of industry and trade, the minister of finance as well as Central Bank governor and the Amman Chamber of Industry president.

## Japan lauds Jordan's handling of evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Japanese official delegation now on a visit to Jordan has expressed its full understanding and appreciation of the work conducted here by a government committee caring for the evacuees from the Gulf, and said it would relay to the Japanese government a picture of the situation.

Speaking at a meeting with the head of the government committee for evacuees, Salameh Hamad, delegation members said they would urge the Japanese government to contribute towards solving problems related to the evacuees and the camps which host them in Jordan.

The Japanese government will also be informed about the financial difficulties encountered by the Jordanian committee and the urgent needs to help host the evacuees, especially during the winter season.

Salameh Hamad briefed the delegation on health, transport and other services offered to the evacuees passing through Jordan, and presented the delegation with a plan that would help Jordan handle further numbers of evacuees in case of new developments in the Gulf region, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

It said that Hamad had also briefed the delegation members on the difficulties the committee

was facing in meeting the emergency needs, and said that there was a serious shortage of blankets in view of the winter season.

For the time being, Hamad said, Jordan is receiving limited numbers of evacuees, but the Jordanian government has received notifications recently informing it that 4,500 Vietnamese will soon be on their way through Jordan.

Hamad expressed Jordan's hope that the Japanese government would provide the Kingdom with urgent and speedy assistance to help it cope with the situation, especially as hundreds of thousands of people are expected to come to the country in case a conflict started in the Gulf.

At least 800,000 foreign evacuees who left the Gulf region following the Iraqi Aug. 2 takeover passed through Jordan. The Kingdom spent nearly \$40 million on food, health, and transport services for evacuees, receiving very little in return from the various countries and organisations which promised aid.

The Japanese and German governments are the only nations which have so far provided Jordan with meaningful financial assistance to help it deal with the situation.

## Seminar on education issues recommendations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on "educational wastage and economics of education" ended in Amman with a set of recommendations centering mainly on proper planning and financing drawing up educational strategies in Jordan.

The symposium, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, recommended that qualified personnel be involved in the process of handling educational wastage problems and help bring about a balance between educational programmes and the needs of the labour market.

Such a group of specialists is

needed to conduct an assessment of qualified people to shoulder the management, planning and financing the educational programmes in Jordan, and should be able to deal with the economic and environmental issues related to education," a statement issued at the end of the symposium said.

The statement underlined the importance of coordination and integration in the educational process, and of gathering information for planning and implementing the educational programmes.

According to the statement, a special team is to be set up to follow up discussions on the sub-

## Influx of Soviet Jews to help Israel's economy, military — economist

AMMAN (J.T.) — The influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine is bound to greatly boost Israel's armed forces capabilities since all Soviet able-bodied men acquire military service according to Soviet laws, a noted Jordanian economist said here Monday.

"At the same time, the Israeli government can make use of the newcomers to fill the post of Arab workers at Israeli plants

from which the Arabs are being turned away," said Burhan Dajani in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, commenting on the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration.

Recent reports from the occupied Arab territories said that the Israeli government was stepping up the immigration process, and it planned to absorb 1,500 immigrants daily.

Israeli officials expect more than 30,000 Soviet Jews in December, bringing this year's immigration to a total of 200,000, according to the reports.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Saturday that the Israelis planned to settle more than a million Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab lands in 18 months' time from now.

According to Dajani, the United States, working in concert

with the world Zionism has closed the door before Soviet Jewish immigrants, forcing them to go to the occupied Palestinian land where they are being settled on Arab territories with American financing.

"The influx of thousands of Jews every month is bound to help the Israeli government to evict the Arab population from their homeland so as to settle the newcomers," Dajani pointed out.

"At the same time the influx of the Soviet Jews into Palestine will help compensate for the opposite emigration of Jews from Israel to other countries, a process which has been increasing over the past few years as more and more Jews are becoming frustrated with life inside Israel," Dajani said.

He also said that Israel's mounting economic problems

have mainly resulted from the Jewish state's inability over the past 10 years to expand Israel's borders.

The influx of Jews, he said, was considered by the Zionist leaders as a means to help the Jewish state expand and contribute towards the fulfilment of Israel's dreams.

Dajani's statement followed a plan disclosed by Israel's economy minister, David Magen, who said last Thursday that he had won wide government backing for a plan that would dismiss nearly two thirds of the 108,000 Palestinians now employed in Israeli businesses and factories.

Magen said that his plan was designed to free jobs for Soviet Jewish immigrants and reduce the number of Palestinians coming to Israel at a time of increased resistance activities.

## Powdered milk ban causes row

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The decision of Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat last week to implement measures on banning the importation of powdered milk, which will take effect January 1, is causing a row between the dairy industry, farmers and the government.

Badrin stressed that his government was keen on enforcing social justice through a fair income tax law which would deal with various sectors and individuals in terms of their income.

The Lower House's Legal Committee also met Monday to discuss a law on axial weights. The Public Freedoms Committee met to review the issue of employees dismissed from their work for political reasons, and heard a report on the political detainees in the light of a visit by committee members to Jordanian jails.

Prime Minister Minder Badran told Parliament on Dec. 19 that 68 per cent of the total number of 544 employees dismissed for political reasons had been reinstated, and that the rate would reach 90 per cent before the end of the year.

The House's Health and Environmental Safety Committee also held a meeting and decided to start a programme of visits to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to study ways to stem environmental pollution, and visits to the cement factory, the phosphate mines and Aqaba Port. They also decided to tour hospitals to study their situation and services.

The main obstacle in the disputes is between the dairy companies and the farmers, according to the Cooperative Society in Zarqa. While farmers were overproducing and giving the dairies milk, the dairy companies were accepting more than their storage capacity and with the time had to refuse more milk from the farmers. "According to an agreement between the companies and the farmers, they were to supply us with a certain amount of fresh milk. When they exceeded that limit we coped for a while, but now our tanks are full and we have to refuse the farmers," members of the Jordanian-Danish dairy company explained.

Danish dairy company books show that while their capacity is 23 tonnes of fresh milk daily, in the winter season they were accepting 24.5 tonnes daily on average. "When we warned the companies that we are not using full capacity of fresh milk but only 75 per cent. If they checked the books, the suppliers would realise we were using 95 per cent

Dr. Hind Dawani, at a seminar entitled "Prevention and Early Detection of Handicaps in Pre-School Children" held at the Institute for Child and Health Development Sunday called for action to inform pregnant women of the importance of medical supervision, prenatally and postnatally.

Dr. Hind Dawani, at a seminar entitled "Prevention and Early Detection of Handicaps in Pre-School Children" held at the Institute for Child and Health Development, emphasised that women, especially young mothers, should visit their gynaecologists even before they get pregnant to ensure a safe pregnancy.

"Pregnant teenage mothers are children themselves," Dr. Dawani said. "And children bearing children must be informed about the medical supervision necessary for mother and child safety during and after pregnancy."

The two-day seminar is the first in a series aiming to increase the awareness of mothers, and improving maternity and child care service facilities.

AMMAN — The director of the Institute for Child and Health Development Sunday called for action to inform pregnant women of the importance of medical supervision, prenatally and postnatally.

VTC training plans to ease unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Labour Ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Monday announced plans to help the country reduce the number of job-seekers by opening the way for free-of-charge training in a number of trades and professions now undertaken by non-Jordanian workers.

VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan told a press conference that arrangements were being made to train Jordanian in skills required for tiles, marble, brick and factories.

"The country, which has nearly 2,000 stone and brick factories, now employs about 10,000 workers, of whom 7,000 are non-Jordanian workers," Atwan said.

Atwan urged all young job-seekers to join the VTC's centre

for this kind of training which, he said, is bound to open many opportunities for them in the future.

Earlier this month, Atwan said in a statement that the VTC's centres would in 1991 offer training courses, ranging from three months to two years, to nearly 14,000 young men and women, up from 10,000 in the year 1990, to help job-seekers get employment.

Atwan named several trades like bakeries, leather tanning, ready made clothes and flour mills where the trainees can acquire employment after graduation, he said. These trades are now manned by foreigners.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafés" at the French Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Mukarram Haghodaqa at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by Hassan Jalal at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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refugee

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية عن المؤسسة العربية الأردنية

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### Day for peace

IT IS Christmas Day once again and its spirit and message have never been more pertinent and applicable than in these troubled times. In essence Christmas sends a universal message to all mankind that peace and goodwill are much more sublime than war and vengeance. It is thus a propitious occasion to reflect individually and collectively on the course we choose to pursue in times when confrontation looks all too inevitable. The message of Christmas is certainly applicable to the Gulf crisis where man is feverishly preparing for catastrophe instead of solving problems. The meaning of the holidays is even more applicable to world leaders, the likes of U.S. President George Bush, who have yet to comprehend its spiritual import and relevancy in coping with international and regional conflicts. The spiritual issue that President Bush is called upon to address on Christmas Day and before he orders his troops to fire on Iraqi soldiers is whether there is a moral case for war. Christmas Day is then a day for him and like-minded leaders to engage in soul searching in order to arrive at honest answers to the crisis in the Gulf.

The White House should listen in particular to the church leaders who have just ended a fact finding mission to the Middle East and the Gulf region and came back solidly against launching a war to rectify a situation that admittedly needs a just and equitable solution. Their voice is the voice of Christmas and Bush of all people should heed their counsel instead of wrapping himself up with hate and vengeance towards his fellow men in Iraq or elsewhere in the world. And the best Christmas gift that the U.S. chief executive can get is to deny him congressional consent to wage war over the Kuwaiti situation. Senator Mitchell, the Democratic congressional leader has unwittingly perhaps, offered such a gift to the White House when he announced Sunday that President Bush may not count on getting congressional agreement to start a war against Iraq. This way President Bush has an opportunity to save face by shifting the blame on the U.S. Congress for denying him the opportunity to begin armed hostilities over the Gulf crisis and the U.S. congressmen would in turn be credited with saving their peoples and the peoples of the Earth from an unnecessary war. Meanwhile Iraq is also called upon to keep the doors for reasonable compromises wide open in order to lend support to those forces which are aiming to frustrate the military option. It can do so by spelling more clearly its terms for a compromise solution for all the international community to comprehend and appreciate.

This is the time to exchange gestures of good will instead of threats, and to think of and work for solutions as an alternative to sliding towards war and catastrophe. Let us all be seized by this opportunity to make peace. Merry Christmas.



### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

It is the United States and not Iraq which will be responsible for the consequences should a war break out in the Gulf because it is the U.S. president who seems to be determined to follow the course of aggression, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The whole world realises that 10 days after it invaded Kuwait, Iraq called for the implementation of the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions with regard to all issues in the Middle East, said the paper. For its part the United States has so far taken a different course and has been intent on issuing threats against Iraq disregarding Baghdad's call for the implementation of the international legitimacy and respect for the U.N. Charter with respect to all issues on equal footing, the paper noted. At the moment, the paper added, the United States and its allies are spreading a dangerous notion in the mind of the world, alleging that the key to a solution to the Gulf crisis is in the hand of the Iraqi leadership and Baghdad is responsible for peace or war. Washington aims to place the blame squarely on Baghdad for any hostilities that might ensue from now, even though Washington and its allies could be behind the provocations, the paper pointed out. Washington, the paper said, is trying hard to force its will on Iraq and to capitulate and succumb to U.S. dictates; and for this reason, said the paper, it should shoulder the responsibility for any eventualities.

Al Dustour daily also dwelt on Washington's continued threats to launch war after Jan. 15 in case Iraq did not withdraw its troops from Kuwait, noting that American officials have stepped up their warnings to Iraq hoping to subdue its will. The paper said that Washington has chosen to cancel the dialogue with Baghdad in a bid to exercise pressure on the Iraqi people and intimidate its leadership. As long as Washington insists on dealing with Iraq through threats instead of negotiations, it will sooner or later drag the whole world behind it in a dangerous adventure that would cause a world wide catastrophe, said the paper. It said Iraq has been demanding an international conference and negotiations for settling all the region's issues, and we believe that Europe is most eligible at the moment to handle such an important task because it is more acceptable to the Arabs in view of their bilateral historic ties. For this reason, the paper said, we still hope that the Algerian president's moves in Europe and his talks with French and Italian leaders would bring about a European initiative.

### The View from Fourth Circle

## The message from the Arab World

MANY Americans see the present crisis in the Middle East as the latest sign of chronic Arab/Muslim disarray, violence, instability, tyrannical and megalomaniacal rulers, and anti-American or anti-Israeli sentiment. The American government promises a new era of Mideast stability after the power of Iraq is crushed for good. The view from within much of the Arab World is considerably different.

Certainly, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait offends our common sense of morality and commitment to international law, and should be reversed and resolved, preferably without warfare. Yet, beneath the tensions of the Gulf conflict lie a far deeper reality of widespread demand for human and political change in the Arab World. Americans should not miss this as they have missed so many other Mideast realities in recent years. Kuwaiti sovereignty must be restored, to be sure; but to focus narrowly on the crisis of Kuwait while ignoring the broader underlying Arab realities is to seek to fix the kitchen sink while the rest of the house is burning out of control.

The widespread Arab support for Iraq in its confrontation with the American-led forces in the Gulf did not spring out of a vacuum. It should be seen in its correct historical context. It stems from a growing realisation by the politically devastated Arab and Muslim people of the region that we can turn to our own identity and resources for the dignity that has been denied us by the post-colonial political order — an order installed by the British and French after World War I, and useful for the Israeli-American combine since World War II, but which has been a colossal failure for Arabs and Muslims in all spheres of life.

Politically, most Arab countries since the 1950s have suffered autocratic domestic systems which have denied their people's yearning for democracy, human rights and justice. Economically, the region's unnatural and untenable imbalances culminated in the 1980s in massive region-wide regression, intolerable foreign debt, severe economic adjustment, and declining real standards of

living. Regionally, the Arab World has been characterised by rising frustration with the inability to deal with the challenge of Israel, and by the failure to give expression to grassroots sentiments of a single, pan-Arab national identity. And internationally, the Arab World has been a sad sideshow of nominally sovereign entities used as pawns by great powers locked in a global ideological confrontation.

Throughout the Arab Middle East, as well as in neighbouring non-Arab Muslim states such as Turkey, Pakistan and Iran, powerful indigenous discontent with the politically non-democratic and economically inequitable order spawned the two most important regional political trends of the past decade: Islamic fundamentalism and democratic pluralism. Both are signs of a profound desire for change — for democracy and human rights, for social equity, for regional economic integration, for accountability of public officials, for morality in public life, for the fair application of international law and U.N. resolutions to all conflict situations, and for a new regional order characterised by honesty, dignity, justice and stability.

For us, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the swift, massive Western military response instantly revived the gruesome penchant of Western powers to seek to maintain a Middle East status quo which was largely created by Western hands after 1915, and which has brought only failure, frustration and humiliation to three generations of Arabs.

The message from much of the Arab World — especially from the nascent democracies in Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia and other societies where Arabs can express themselves freely, and where support for Iraq against the militarism of the West is greatest — is that we will not be the world's last colonies. We will not suffer in perpetuity a degrading and failed political order which has successively served the colonial interests of Great Britain and France. The security interests of Israel, the commer-

cial interests of American-led Western oil companies, weapons manufacturers, corporations and banks, and the grotesque personal wealth of fantastic, super-rich, unelected, non-accountable and often corrupt elites.

The overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979 was the first sign of the power which the people of the Middle East realised they could muster in the face of superior military force. It was followed soon after by the Lebanese National Resistance's eviction of the American marines from Lebanon, and, since December 1987, the Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation. Those Arabs who stand up to the massive militarism of the West today, for gone are the days when Western powers can send their armies half way around the world to preserve a political order which has failed the national, emotional and material aspirations of hundreds of millions of indigenous people in the Third World.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is only the latest perverse action in a region populated by people who have been perversely treated by Western military powers and indigenous power elites for most of this century. Washington and London suddenly woke up to the political travesties and human tragedies of the Middle East four months ago. We've been living with them for three generations. We wish to live with them no more.

*Editors Note: A slightly shorter version of this article appeared in the New York Times and the International Herald Tribune last week.*

## A dose of reality after initial elation

By J.E. Heintz  
The Associated Press

THE year began with intoxicating changes in many regions and ended soberly, with a bewildering array of problems.

Eastern Europe was embroiled in ethnic, political and economic problems after throwing off decades of repression. The United States and other wealthy nations saw their economies pale. And the year closed with soldiers from many nations poised in Saudi Arabia for a possible war with Iraq over its seizure of Kuwait.

The European Community took formal steps toward economic unification — a move mirrored when workmen under the English Channel linked the two halves of a tunnel that will connect Britain with France.

But technology did not always work smoothly. The United States' hubble telescope went into space with a flaw that ruined much of its capability to see the heavens and the U.S. space shuttle programme was beset with hydrogen leaks.

The environment was a growing concern. Threats facing the planet include green-



Edward Shevardnadze



Saddam Hussein



1990



Helmut Kohl  
with the economic disintegration.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a close ally of Gorbachev, abruptly resigned on Dec. 20 with a warning to parliament: hard-liners were pushing the country toward dictatorship.

But as the Soviet Union became enmeshed in domestic problems, it cut back on its global military role, announcing troops pullouts from Europe and Asia and presiding over the Warsaw Pact's transformation into a primarily political body.

That left the United States to take the leading role in the Gulf crisis that broke out after Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait in August.

U.S. President George Bush quickly responded by mounting a huge military buildup in Saudi Arabia, and other countries also sent troops.

Iraqi President Saddam Hus-



Margaret Thatcher

sein released thousands of foreign hostages in December, and Baghdad and Washington sparred over when to bold talks.

Tension grew with the approach of the Jan. 15, 1991, deadline set by the United Nations for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face the possibility of military force.

As the United States faced the possibility of an unpopular war, it also was struggling with a declining economy. A recession loomed, and other countries also felt the effects of a worldwide downturn.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who had led Britain's economic rebound in the 1980s, abruptly resigned, brought down by dissatisfaction within her party over inflation, high interest rates and a new poll tax.

Turbulence in the Mideast extended beyond the Gulf. Israel had to contend with the 3-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. In the most violent incident, Israeli police killed over 21 Palestinian demonstrators in East Jerusalem. Disagreement over the Palestinian question brought down the coalition government of Yitzhak Shamir, but the opposition couldn't form a new government and Shamir, a rightist, returned to power.

In Lebanon, one of the world's most intractable conflicts abated. The militias that had partitioned Beirut agreed to pull out of the capital — after the forces of renegade Christian Gen. Michel Aoun were defeated — and the infamous green line was dismantled. However, the pullout did not solve the question of Syria's massive presence in the country, nor of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in the south of the country.

In South Africa, the government took substantial steps to

ward dismantling its apartheid system of racial separation — including the elimination of most segregated public facilities — and released black leader Nelson Mandela from prison after 28 years. But when Mandela returned home from a triumphant world tour, he was confronted by the horror of black-on-black fighting between supporters of his African National Congress and the rival Inkatha movement.

Nicaraguans voted the Marxist Sandinistas out of office and the Contra rebels disbanded, but the country's economic disintegration continued. By year's end the new government was facing widespread protest.

In Bangladesh, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad gave in to protesters and resigned. The president who is to be elected next year will be the first person chosen democratically to lead the impoverished, disaster-plagued country.

Haiti held its first democratic elections, and the Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a priest of the poor, won the presidency. But supporters of the former Duvalier dictatorship vowed to challenge the outcome.



Democracy made inroads in South America. Patricio Aylwin defeated authoritarian Gen. Augusto Pinochet for the presidency of Chile, and Fernando Collor de Mello became Brazil's freely elected leader. Peruvians elected Alberto Fujimori, a last-minute presidential candidate, in an expression of despair over economic collapse and a vicious left-wing guerrilla insurgency.

North Korea and South Korea began cautious but contentious contacts, bringing some hope that the peninsula might end its bitter division.

Liberia, a country founded by former slaves from the United States, sank into the grisly despair of a year-long civil war. President Samuel Doe was tortured and killed, and citizens starved in the streets of Monrovia while two rebel armies fought for dominance.

India, the world's largest democracy, seethed with ethnic fighting and class conflict. An outbreak of fighting between Hindus and Muslims over a temple site brought down the 11-month-old government of V.P. Singh. It was replaced by another fragile and fractious coalition.

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was ousted by the military after 20 months as the first female leader of a modern Muslim nation.

Nicolae Ceausescu

house warming, dwindling rain forests and pollution.

Disasters struck. An earthquake took at least 50,000 lives in Iran and another 1,600 died in a quake in the Philippines.

In Mecca, some 1,100 pilgrims died in a stampede in a tunnel leading to Islam's holiest place.

Death claimed people who enlightened and entertained, among them musical great Leonard Bernstein, composer Aaron Copland, singers Sarah Vaughan and Pearl Bailey, actress Greta Garbo, author Lawrence Durrell, psychiatrists Bruno Bettelheim and Karl Menninger and psychologist B.F. Skinner.

Al Dustour daily also dwelt on Washington's continued threats to launch war after Jan. 15 in case Iraq did not withdraw its troops from Kuwait, noting that American officials have stepped up their warnings to Iraq hoping to subdue its will. The paper said that Washington has chosen to cancel the dialogue with Baghdad in a bid to exercise pressure on the Iraqi people and intimidate its leadership. As long as Washington insists on dealing with Iraq through threats instead of negotiations, it will sooner or later drag the whole world behind it in a dangerous adventure that would cause a world wide catastrophe, said the paper. It said Iraq has been demanding an international conference and negotiations for settling all the region's issues, and we believe that Europe is most eligible at the moment to handle such an important task because it is more acceptable to the Arabs in view of their bilateral historic ties. For this reason, the paper said, we still hope that the Algerian president's moves in Europe and his talks with French and Italian leaders would bring about a European initiative.

Hussein M. Ershad

other countries.

Paradoxically, as President Mikhail Gorbachev was leading the country to new freedoms — and winning the Nobel Peace Prize — the Soviet legislature was giving him new powers to try to cope

with the economic disintegration.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a close ally of Gorbachev, abruptly resigned on Dec. 20 with a warning to parliament: hard-liners were pushing the country toward dictatorship.

But as the Soviet Union became enmeshed in domestic problems, it cut back on its global military role, announcing troops pullouts from Europe and Asia and presiding over the Warsaw Pact's transformation into a primarily political body.

That left the United States to take the leading role in the Gulf crisis that broke out after Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait in August.

U.S. President George Bush quickly responded by mounting a huge military buildup in Saudi Arabia, and other countries also sent troops.

Iraqi President Saddam Hus-

sein released thousands of foreign hostages in December, and Baghdad and Washington sparred over when to hold talks.

Tension grew with the approach of the Jan. 15, 1991, deadline set by the United Nations for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face the possibility of military force.

As the White House

and the Pentagon

and the Congress

and the media

and the public

and the world

all waited for the final

word.

It came on Jan. 15.

And the world waited.

It waited.

It waited.

It waited.

## Santa has nothing to fear when he comes to Beirut this year

By Nadim Ladki  
Reuters

Beirut — "Santa Claus will come to Beirut. He has nothing to fear, there is no war, there is peace now," said eight-year-old George Khouri.

For the first time in 15 years, the jolly, bearded secular symbol of Christmas will not have to worry about shellings, roadblocks, mines or being kidnapped while in the Lebanese capital.

Thousands of president Elias Hrawi's troops took control of the Muslim and Christian sectors of Beirut earlier this month, ridding it of rival, gun-ready, militiamen.

Army engineers toppled fortifications at the "green line" battle zone that divided the city for 15 years of civil war, clearing mines, opening roads and shifting barricades and rubble.

But it will take time to wipe out the scars of war in the children's minds.

When asked what he wants for Christmas, Khouri said: "I hope Santa brings me a machine gun."

Sabeh Nassar, manager of Toyshop in Beirut, said most of his sales were electrocric games, particularly war games.

"The security situation may be better this year... but we still sell all those war games," said Nassar adding that the high rate of inflation affected his

business. "People are spending on repairing their homes and shops and not gifts," he said.

Rita Kisonarjes said she was selecting the presents for her two children this year despite their preferences. "They love toy guns — this time I am getting them educational games," she said.

Decorations in the Christian neighbourhoods of Beirut, the scene of fierce fighting earlier this year, are modest compared to ornaments in Muslim districts.

One such family is the Ghazals who live in the one room remnant of what was once a three-storey building in downtown Beirut.

Like thousands of other Christians they were displaced from their village in the Druze-held Shouf mountains in 1983. They moved to a Christian district in Bierut but were forced out again during this year's inter-Christian battles.

"Everything is so expensive, we can barely afford to buy food let alone presents for the children," said Antoinette Ghazal, the mother of three youngsters.

Army bulldozers have been clearing rubble and bringing down badly damaged buildings near her home, reportedly to prepare for a huge rebuilding plan.

"If the state wants to rebuild the areas here, we will be left homeless. That's some Christmass present," she said.

"Christmas has become part of our tradition. It is not only a feast for Christians. Our Muslim clients are also swept by the Christmas spirit," said Omar Ardati, 29, a ceramics shop owner.

Elie Aizarani, who runs a gift shop, said business was booming because "people, Muslims and Christians alike,



## 1991 — Punishment or compromise?

By Eileen Alt Powell  
The Associated Press

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— For nearly three years, the Palestinian uprising consisted mainly of street battles in the occupied territories, a war of stones far removed from most Israelis' daily lives.

But a series of fatal stabbings on the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has brought the Arab revolt closer to home.

Growing fear among Israelis has prompted calls for harsh punishment of Arabs who attack Jews. It also has renewed debate over whether Israel should continue to occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.7 million Palestinians.

The independent Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Achronot* called this week for a solution "based on physical separation between us and the Palestinians."

The leftist Al Hamashar said legislators' calls for the

death penalty and massive Arab expulsions would only worsen the conflict.

"The only solution lies in a separation of the two nations and a political settlement, which the government has been unable to reach," the paper said in an editorial.

Few believe the right-wing government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is prepared to yield any of the territory captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East War. Only recently Shamir spoke of his Likud bloc's historic commitment to keep all the land from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River.

But leftist Parliament Member Dedi Zuckerman, who advocates trading land for peace, believes growing anger and fear over the stabbings are shifting public opinion toward getting rid of the territories.

"I can't remember in the last 10 years when my argument was accepted so well among people that I meet," Zuckerman said in an interview. "They say, 'yes, there is no hope for us living together.'"

He warns that if a peace process is not launched soon, the anti-Israeli attacks may accelerate.

"I fear in the coming year we may witness some horrendous, horrific terror activity," Zuckerman said. It will be born, he said, out of "Palestinian desperation, a lack of hope."

From the December 1987 start of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, leaders of the revolt disengaged the use of firearms and attacks on Jews inside Israel.

But the guidelines began collapsing after the Oct. 8 riots on Jerusalem, in which at least 17 Palestinians were killed by police gunfire.

The fundamentalist groups Islamic Holy War and Hamas, or Zeal, have since urged armed revenge for the deaths.

Palestinian journalist Daoud Kurtab said the massive use of live ammunition by police on

people armed only with stones had made many ordinary Arabs feel restraint on their part was useless.

"Some people now feel they can cross the green line," he said in a reference to the pre-1967 demarcation between Israel and the territories.

Since Oct. 8, seven Jews have been stabbed to death and at least 19 wounded in attacks by Palestinians inside Israel.

Palestinian anger over the Jerusalem massacres also has strengthened support for fundamentalist Muslim groups, which advocate the destruction of Israel, at the expense of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has been pushing for a two-state solution.

"I am hoping the Israelis decide to do something with a credible organisation that still has some weight or face the possibility it will be left with organisations it cannot deal with," Kurtab said.

Instead of compromise, however, right-wing politicians have responded to the latest

attacks by urging even stiffer retaliation against Palestinians.

After Hamas claimed responsibility for the latest stabbing deaths of three Israelis last week, the government ordered the deportation of four Hamas leaders and the arrests of hundreds of Muslim activists.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens promised that the deportations "will not be the last," and Science Minister Yuval Neeman urged expelling 1,000 uprising "ringleaders." Others demanded banning all 110,000 Palestinian workers from entering Israel.

Israeli military analyst Zeev Schiff believes such tactics will backfire.

"Israel is still at the stage where many in the public feel that an angry reply will solve the problem," he wrote in the daily *Haaretz*. "But it is clear that we are nearing a critical stage, where more and more people will understand that it is impossible to solve a civil war through military means only and that we need aggressive political steps."

various delegations from Western and Eastern countries and with U.S. officials, I see the full picture and the danger that may engulf Iraq."

**Bethlehem**  
(Continued from page 1)

The holiday festivities went sour for 6,200 French troops when Saudi authorities banned two Christmas rock concerts. Visiting Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement cancelled a meeting with his Saudi counterpart.

Regular Christian worship is being openly conducted by military chaplains, or lay leaders for U.S. and allied Western forces operating in international waters of the Red Sea and the Gulf in nearby emirates.

### Benjedid

(Continued from page 1) disagree by countering that Baghdad could not have made such an unguaranteed concession while Washington was stepping up its rhetoric and military build-up in the region.

Some analysts believe that Benjedid has a better chance of talking Baghdad into accepting a compromise if he manages to propel a French-led European diplomatic process that will practically build up pressure on Washington to address all the problems of the region.

With the approach of the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for

Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war, prospects do not seem encouraging for reaching a breakthrough.

But some Arab officials, including Jordanians, are optimistic that the current diplomatic flurry will create a momentum to delay or even drop the war option.

This line of thinking is based on an assessment that war will backfire again: American interests in the region and that it is in the interest of Europe to bolster its relations and position in the region.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem warned Monday that the U.S. risks losing its friends and allies in the event of a military conflict in the Gulf.

"After all Iraq has the interests of the Arab Nation as its highest priority, even above our own interests," he said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday echoed warning by U.S. Defence Secretary

### Tel Aviv

(Continued from page 1)

Attempts to hold talks between Baghdad and the United States have apparently failed because of bickering over a date.

"(The Iraqi government) is open to meet and enter into a dialogue with all parties who are effective in bringing about a peaceful settlement in the region and that it is in the interest of Europe to bolster its relations and position in the region.

Anbari said.

"After all Iraq has the interests of the Arab Nation as its highest priority, even above our own interests," he said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday echoed warning by U.S. Defence Secretary

Dick Cheney that a war against Iraq may be drawing closer.

He said that should hostilities break out, the Iraqi people would suffer massive losses.

Muharik, who met Sunday with Cheney during the defence secretary's visit en route home from Saudi Arabia, said: "Nobody will benefit from such a war. A very large number of Iraqi people will die."

Muharik deplored Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait.

The president also hacked Cheney's view that as the Jan. 15 deadline for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait was drawing closer, there was no sign of such a pullout.

"I wish the Iraqis would realize that the situation is fraught with danger."

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## Soccer dulls image with lackluster World Cup

By Brian Trudell  
The Associated Press

AFTER years of being hurt by repeated fan violence, soccer damaged its own image in 1990 with a dull, defensive World Cup and an inability to develop a plan to reverse the trend.

In years past, soccer took a beating over events such as the Heysel Stadium riots in 1985 and the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989.

But in 1990, the first 1-0 final in the 60-year history of the World Cup, and one in which the only goal was scored on a penalty kick, dampened the spirit of even some of the most ardent soccer fans.

Unless, of course, you were German.

West Germany's victory over Argentina set off wild celebrations from Berlin to Bonn three months before unification with East Germany.

"This was more violent than the revolution," said East German resident Helmut Klemm, "said of the marauding fans. 'Why can't they just root for the team?'

Andreas Brehme's 79th minute penalty kick lifted West

Germany to its third World Cup, but the victory in Rome wasn't without controversy or criticism.

None of the criticism was leveled at West Germany, a pre-tournament favorite that was one of the few teams praised for its overall attractive style of play.

FIFA took the brunt of the criticism. Defending champion Argentina claimed the World Cup final was "fixed," and others said soccer's ruling body should have acted against defensive tactics which led to an all-time low 2.21 goals per game average, nearly a goal less than the 3.10 average of all of the World Cups combined.

Some criticized Argentina for seemingly playing for ties in the single elimination rounds with the hope of winning on penalty kicks.

However, Argentina wasn't alone in its tactics. In the preliminary round of Group F, all but one game involving England, the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt ended in a 1-1 or 0-0 tie.

FIFA tried to address the problem before the World Cup, altering the off-side rule. The "even is now on-side" amend-

ment, coupled with a red card for the so-called "professional foul" were adopted in the hope of encouraging scoring.

It didn't.

Other ideas were bandied about: increasing the dimensions of the goal, eliminating the off-sides rule and reducing the number of players.

But with purists claiming it was not the game at fault, but the way coaches teach it, and that the proposed changes were only to appease a soccer-illiterate U.S. audience, the suggestions met considerable resistance.

And without a United Front or consensus, it appears little change is likely for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

However the World Cup in Italy did have its moments.

From its opening upset of Argentina — where it used rough marking of star striker Diego Maradona — Cameron's incredible run was a marvel, climaxed by its dramatic 3-2 overtime quarterfinal loss to England.

Roger Milla, who came out of retirement at 38, led his country to inspired play, including a 2-1 extra time victory over Col-

ombia in the second round.

Elsewhere, Salvatore Schillaci came off the bench twice in the first round to spur victories and scored a tournament-high seven goals to lead Italy into the semifinals.

Despite the criticism, "half of the human race watched soccer at least once," said Italia '90 head Luca de Montezemolo.

Except, in the United States, where television ratings were poor.

Partially to blame for the low ratings was the poor performance of the U.S. team, which made its first appearance in the final in 40 years.

An opening game 5-1 to Czechoslovakia, a respectable 1-0 loss with host Italy and a 2-1 loss to Austria (despite a two-man advantage at the end of the game), placed the United States 23rd out of 24 teams and generated little interest at home.

One plus for the World Cup was that feared massive violence, particularly from English fans, never materialized. With the English national team exiled to the island of Sardinia, only half of the expected 8,000 English fans made the trip and they were met with an almost equal

police presence.

Bars and liquor stores were

closed up to 72 hours before,

during and after matches. But it

wasn't a World Cup completely

void of hooligans.

One of the worst incidents

involved German fans, who

smashed shops in Milan. About

100 were arrested, 44 sent home

and five sentenced to two years

in jail.

Apart from the World Cup, there were sporadic outbreaks of fan violence in Europe, most notably in newly united Germany, particularly in the East.

One young fan was shot and

killed by police, who were trying

to break up riots in Leipzig after

a game.

Political problems also fuelled

violence in Yugoslavia, where a

game between league champion

Red Star Belgrade and runner-

up Dynamo Zagreb ended in a

riot and suspended the season.

On a positive note, England

finally returned to European

Cup competition as a five-year

ban on English clubs was lifted.

Aston Villa and Manchester United

became the first clubs from

England to play on the continent

since the 1985 Champions Cup

finals at Heysel Stadium in Brussels, Belgium.

On the field at least, Italy demonstrated its dominance of club play by capturing all three European Cups: Napoli in the Cup Winners' Cup, Sampdoria in the UEFA Cup and AC Milan successfully defending its Champions Cup title.

AC Milan also triumphed again in the Toyota Intercontinental Cup, beating Olympia of Paraguay 3-0 in Tokyo.

Olympia advanced to the one-game Toyota Cup, generally viewed as the World Club Championship, by surviving a highly controversial protested Liberator Cup tournament that was marred by threats of bribery and intimidation.

The biggest of the scandals

broke in the quarterfinals. The

South American Soccer Confed-

eration voided Atletico Nacio-

nal's 2-0 victory over Brazil's Vasco Da Gama on Aug. 29 in Medellin, Colombia.

The action was taken because

referee Juan Daniel Cardellino

was threatened with death if he

didn't ensure an Atletico victory.

The match was replayed and

Atletico still won 1-0, but the

confederation also banned Col-

ombia from hosting any confed-

eration-sanctioned games.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 25, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Show others that you have it within your power to forge ahead in avenues of expression that require penetrating thought and dynamic action. Enjoy your holiday season and express your concern for others.

### ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

A good friend can help you in getting out from under some problem that is of concern to you so don't hesitate to let him know what it is.

### TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18)

A day when you can impress one in an important position with your talents which everyone may not see so don't hide your light but have a strong flame.

### SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Enjoy your home in the fullest now by going along with whatever members of your family do or suggest any you can have a happy time.

### CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

This is your day to make sure you do show your one who calls and wishes others a Merry Christmas and give them a boost where it is appreciated.

### AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

A day when you have much control over circumstances because you are now endowed with so much charm so be sure in extend your magnetism.

### PISCES: (February 20 to March 18)

Now you have a day when you can quickly have the romantic happiness or the support from one of whom you are fond and who helps you materially.

## Foreman ends 1990 as 'big' man in boxing

By Ed Schuyler Jr.  
The Associated Press

JAMES "Buster" Douglas pulled arguably the biggest boxing upset ever in 1990, but by year's end the big man in the sport was George Foreman.

Evander Holyfield was the undisputed heavyweight champion, but the people's choice seemed to be Foreman, who was the champion of the middle-aged fan and had the spread that goes with middle age.

Foreman, who held the world title in 1973-74, was scheduled to challenge Holyfield on April 19. By then "Big George" will be 43 years old and probably on the other side of 250 pounds (113 kilograms).

Douglas was a 42-underdog when he challenged unbeaten Mike Tyson on Feb. 11 at Tokyo. The fight ended in the 10th round, with "Iron Mike" counted out.

It also ended in controversy.

Promoter Don King and Tyson's corner contended that Douglas got a long count after being knocked down in the eighth round because the referee failed to pick up the timekeeper's count at three and instead began counting at one.

Douglas, who watched and listened to the referee's count, the only one a boxer is concerned about, got up at nine. The bell then ended the round.

Douglas went on to defend the title against Holyfield on Oct. 25 at Las Vegas and badly tarnished his shining moment in Tokyo.

Obviously out of condition — he weighed 246 pounds (111.5 kilograms) compared the 231½ pounds (105 kilograms) he weighed in



George Foreman

fact, more accurately than he did in his first boxing life before he became an Evangelist.

One of Foreman's five victories was a second-round knockout over former contender Gerry Cooney. Another was a second-round knockout of Adilson Rodrigues, which was the first half of a doubleheader with the Tyson-Tillman fight.

While Foreman continued to outpoint the arch-enemy of any boxer, father time, Dooovan "Razor" Ruddock emerged as major force in the heavyweight division.

While there are lot of jokes about Foreman's waistline, his punching power is no laughing matter. Some boxing observers feel Foreman hits as hard and, in

three knockout victories, including an impressive fifth-round KO of Michael Dokes, a former WBA champion.

Ruddock is ranked no. 2 behind Tyson by all three major organizations.

Douglas' upset of Tyson certainly was the fight with the biggest impact, but the best fight of 1990 might have been Julio Cesar Chavez' comeback victory over Melvick Taylor on March 17 in which Chavez gained IBF junior welterweight title recognition. He was already recognized as 116-pound (63-kilogram) champion by the WBC.

Chavez, a dominant fighter of the 1980s, had a narrow lead on one official card, but was far behind on the other two after 11 rounds. The Mexican needed a knockout to avoid his first defeat.

With the round drawing to a close, Chavez knocked down Taylor who struggled up. Referee Richard Steele, however, stopped the fight with two seconds remaining. Steele's action touched off a controversy, but there was no doubt Taylor had taken a physical beating. He suffered dehydration, swallowed two pints of blood, had the small bones around the left eye fractured and required hospitalization.

Chavez won his other three fights and finished the year with a 7-0 record, with 60 knockouts.

Only one other champion was recognized by the IBF, WBA and WBC. That was Pernell Whitaker, who won four bouts and added the WBA lightweight title by knocking out Juan Nazario in the first round.

## Porto stays top in Portugal

LISBON (R) — Two goals from Brazilian defender Geraldo kept champions Porto two points clear at the top of the Portuguese Soccer League but Benfica and Sporting Lisbon also won to stay in contention.

Geraldo converted a 22nd-

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

with partners should be done now in a very considerate fashion so do nothing on your own but by an agreement.

### LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

You can spend this day making your surroundings more attractive and your personal appearance more in harmony with what pleases those about you.

### SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22)

The good times you have now should certainly cost you very little or you lose some of your security just for some temporary amusement.

### SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

This is your time to make sure that you do seek out some friends with the same interests as your own and devise some sensible way to resolve problems.

### GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You have some outside chores to do that you'd just as soon skip but there must be sometime as there is no time like the present to get at them.

### MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

You find that there is much study and investigation needed in that project that does necessitate that you do not yet put into motion.

### LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

You have some obligations that require careful consideration and attention and this is the time to get them in back of you so you can soon go ahead.

### VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21)

Whatever you need in talk over

## JUMBLE

IN



## Gorbachev wins approval for referendums on union, land ownership

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev pushed a pair of resolutions through parliament Monday, calling for referendum on land ownership and preservation of the union, two of the Soviet Union's most contentious issues.

By 1,678 votes to 32, with 65 abstentions, the Congress of People's Deputies agreed to a country-wide referendum on preservation of a federative union.

Earlier, the parliament approved a Gorbachev motion to hold a referendum on private land ownership.

At least four of the 15 republics have said they would not sign a new treaty renewing the union under any circumstances, raising some doubt about the effect of the congress resolution. Others have expressed deep misgivings.

The text called for a referendum "on maintaining a reformed union as a federation of equal, sovereign Soviet Socialist republics," with each republic's vote to be counted separately.

No date was set for the vote. The full Soviet parliament also approved the principles of a new union treaty binding the 15 constituent republics to the centre.

By a vote of 1,491 to 88, with 141 abstentions, the Congress of People's Deputies supported a resolution backing Gorbachev's blueprint for a renewed union. The treaty must be ratified by the republics.

The congress will vote later on the basic concepts of the treaty article by article and major changes could still be made.

The three Baltic republics — Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — and Georgia have said they would not sign the treaty under

any circumstances. The giant Russian Federation, under Gorbachev's rival Boris Yeltsin, said it would not rush into any agreement.

The congress also voted to preserve the country's full name — the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

A draft proposal, originally backed by Gorbachev, would have dropped the word "Socialist" and replaced it with the word "sovereign."

The vote on the land ownership referendum was approved by 1,553 to 83 with 70 abstentions.

The Russian Federation has already approved private land holdings and other republics have moved to restore individual land ownership, something Gorbachev has already spoken out against.

The explosive issue in the officially-Socialist state is another bitter point of contention between the centre and the republics.

Gorbachev dismissed fears the referendum would violate the rights of republics to decide their own affairs.

"I am convinced it will not, because we are talking about the people," he told one dissenting deputy ahead of the vote.

Meanwhile U.S. Senate majority leader George Mitchell said Sunday the U.S. government should halt any aid to the Soviet Union if leaders crack down on the nation's rebellious republics.

Calling the recent signs from the Soviet Union "ominous," Mitchell said he thought the possibilities of Soviet retaliation against breakaway republics was increasing.

"I think we ought to have substantial aid unless and until the crackdown occurs and if it does, then... we surely should not be providing aid at that time," he said on NBC-TV's *Meet The Press*.

Mitchell is a member of Democratic Party, which controls both houses of Congress. President George Bush is a Republican.

Earlier this month Bush outlined a varied economic aid package that included technical and medical assistance and support for the Soviets to affiliate with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Bush announced his plan before Edward Shevardnadze resigned as foreign minister, contending the Soviet Union was moving towards dictatorship. On Saturday, the head of the KGB, Vladimir Kryuchkov, warned of a possibility of bloodshed to restore order to the rebellious republics.

Bush has said the United States concerned about Shevardnadze's resignation.

"Obviously people are... wondering about the concerns raised by Mr. Shevardnadze," he said. "Life goes on."

According to unofficial final results, 88.2 per cent of voters opted for independence for Slovenia. Yugoslavia's most westernised and prosperous region.

In the long run, he said a crackdown would fail and "either more accelerated movement toward some form of democratisation or maybe even a more dramatic breakup."

Four per cent opposed independence for the republic of 1.9 million people, which borders Italy and Hungary, and the rest of the ballot papers were invalid, election officials said.

About 90 per cent of Slovenia's 1.5 million electorate voted.

Slovenian leaders have ruled out immediate secession, saying a complete break would come only if the six Yugoslav republics failed to work out a new political framework for the country within six months.

But the poll was a tumultuous climax to an independence drive that has picked up steam since Slovenia earlier this year became the first of Yugoslavia's republics to dump 45 years of Communist rule.

Central authority has crumbled with political liberalisation and the multi-ethnic federation has slid into a deep political crisis.

Slovenia is set apart from most of the rest of Yugoslavia by its western cultural and religious tradition.

The man fatally hit by a bullet as he was passing by was an employee of a detergent factory, police said. Ten seriously injured persons, mostly students, were sent to hospital.

Doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital said the APSU student leader, Farukzaman Farook, who was injured in a fight with Shibir activists Sunday, died early Monday.

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Authorities closed the 10,000-student Chittagong University after clashes between rival groups Saturday, in which more than 150 were injured.

## U.N. assembly mulls expanded session, other reforms

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly ended its fall session last week just in time — to allow delegates to catch the last sailing of the Queen Mary to Europe for Christmas.

The fact that the Queen Mary hasn't steamed to Europe for decades made no difference. The Assembly is still working on a schedule dating to sailing days.

U.N. officials say that's the kind of thing that underscores the body's long-overdue need for reform.

They point not only to the timing of sessions, but to the huge load of routine business that delegations must deal with, the crush of unnecessary paperwork and a lack of time to deal with things that really matter.

The Netherlands continued a \$2.7 billion a year aid program that began when Surinam gained its independence in 1975, but the aid was cut off after 15 opposition leaders were killed in December 1982 while in police custody.

In July 1986, Ronny Bruswick, a former army sergeant, launched a guerrilla war against Bouterse's military regime with the support of Bushmeat, rural descendants of slaves in eastern and southeastern Surinam. The fighting has claimed more than 500 lives.

With internal and international pressure, Bouterse agreed to hold free elections in November 1987, and Ramsewak Shankar came to power at the head of a three-party coalition.

The spokesman said Shankar,



## Slovenes vote big 'yes' for independence

LIJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (R)

The Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia voted overwhelmingly to become an independent and sovereign state, in a plebiscite that could open the door to secession.

As the outcome of Sunday's vote became known, thousands of usually unemotional Slovenes joined spontaneous street celebrations. They sang patriotic songs and waved torches as brass bands played in the tiny republic's capital, Ljubljana.

"This is an historic night, we have waited for it for 1,000 years," Slovenian Prime Minister Lojze Peterle said. "Europe will have to accept an independent Slovenian state sooner or later."

According to unofficial final results, 88.2 per cent of voters opted for independence for Slovenia. Yugoslavia's most westernised and prosperous region.

In the long run, he said a crackdown would fail and "either more accelerated movement toward some form of democratisation or maybe even a more dramatic breakup."

Four per cent opposed independence for the republic of 1.9 million people, which borders Italy and Hungary, and the rest of the ballot papers were invalid, election officials said.

About 90 per cent of Slovenia's 1.5 million electorate voted.

Slovenian leaders have ruled out immediate secession, saying a complete break would come only if the six Yugoslav republics failed to work out a new political framework for the country within six months.

But the poll was a tumultuous climax to an independence drive that has picked up steam since Slovenia earlier this year became the first of Yugoslavia's republics to dump 45 years of Communist rule.

Central authority has crumbled with political liberalisation and the multi-ethnic federation has slid into a deep political crisis.

Slovenia is set apart from most of the rest of Yugoslavia by its western cultural and religious tradition.

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## Surinam air force chief replaces army commander

PARAMARIBO (R) — Surinam's armed forces commander and former military ruler, Colonel Desi Bouterse, has resigned and his second-in-command has taken over as successor, a military spokesman has said.

Bouterse, who ruled this former Dutch colony for eight years following a military coup in February 1980, met Saturday night with civilian President Ramsewak Shankar to inform him of his resignation, the spokesman told Reuters in a telephone interview from Paramaribo.

Bouterse resigned because "he doesn't feel the government is hacking the national army, and it doesn't allow the army to do what they are supposed to do and the way they are supposed to do it," the spokesman said.

Army Commander Badressien Sital also resigned, he said.

Air Force Commander Ivan Graafoogst, in his first official statement as acting armed forces commander, said, "The policies for the former commander will be continued," an apparent reference to attempts to sign a peace treaty to end a four and a half year guerrilla war.

Bouterse returned to Surinam Saturday from a visit to Ghana and Switzerland.

The decision to resign came after Shankar failed to protest when Bouterse was held in police custody in Amsterdam while in transit to Ghana.

The spokesman said Shankar,

## IRA declares Christmas truce

LONDON (R) — IRA guerrillas fighting British rule in Northern Ireland declared a three-day Christmas truce and Britain said it hoped this could be a pointer towards solution of a conflict in which 3,000 have died in 21 years.

Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke said the truce from Sunday midnight (2400 GMT) "albeit brief, is a welcome omen to 1990 and may be a pointer towards solution of a conflict in which 3,000 have died in 21 years."

The IRA has regularly been informal Christmas ceasefires by the IRA (Irish Republican Army) but the last to be announced in a statement, as this one was, was back in 1974.

It was extended well beyond Christmas, ending only after eight months of fruitless efforts to get peace talks off the ground.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey said the new ceasefire, if extended, would "open up great possibilities for progress."

James Molyneaux, leader of Northern Ireland's official Unionist Party, which strongly supports continued ties with Britain, deplored the IRA move.

"Criminals deserve no medals

for ceasing criminal activity for three days," he said. "It will be small comfort for families of policemen and soldiers to know that their loved ones will not be murdered until Thursday."

The IRA has recently been using "human bombs" — strapping people into vehicles laden with explosives and forcing them to drive to security checkpoints.

One such attack in November killed seven people including six British soldiers. The total death toll this year is 74.

Sunday's IRA statement, released in Belfast, said its active service units had been told "to suspend all offensive military action in the British-occupied area for a period of three days from midnight tonight until midnight on Dec. 26."

But the IRA stressed that its units would fight back in self-defence.

Brooke has made several

appeals for the IRA to end its campaign and a year ago indicated the government could respond "imaginatively" if the shooting and bombing stopped.

Irish political analysts said a peace initiative by Brooke would enter a critical phase in coming weeks.

It was at least possible that Sinn Fein, the political wing of the republican movement, might favour an indefinite IRA truce which could enable Sinn Fein to participate in talks.

Britain three weeks ago flew an extra battalion to Northern Ireland, bringing the number of its troops there to 11,000.

Security sources say British reinforcements and stepped-up patrolling averted a pre-Christmas IRA offensive.

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